

## CLAIMS

## 1. A load transfer device comprising:

first and second spaced-apart rotary members <sup>101, 102</sup> sharing a common axis of rotation, each having a hub portion and at least one <sup>117</sup> recess formed in its periphery;

a slipper member <sup>110</sup> extending between the rotary members and defining therewith a space adapted to receive an elongate support element along which the device is adapted to travel, in use;

attachment means <sup>301</sup> for attaching a load to the device, and

access means to enable said elongate element to be introduced into or removed from said space so as to allow the device to be attached to or detached from the elongate element;

characterised in that said access means comprises at least one notch provided in the hub portion of each rotary member and in that said attachment means <sup>310</sup> comprises a moveable link assembly operable between:

(a) a blocking position in which it prevents access to the notches by said elongate support element, and

(b) a release position in which it allows access to the notches by said elongate support element,

whereby said slipper member is enabled to pass over the elongate support element to cover or expose said space according to whether the device is being attached to or released from the elongate support element.

2. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said attachment means comprises at least a first attachment <sup>301</sup> member having a first connecting <sup>305</sup> eye for attaching a load to the device and wherein said moveable link assembly comprises means to obstruct said connecting eye when the moveable link assembly is in the release position in which it allows access to said notches by said elongate support element.

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Fig 3

3. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 2 wherein said moveable link assembly comprises a moveable link and a swing link, said swing link being pivotally mounted relative to said first attachment member.

4. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 3 wherein said swing link has a lug formation engageable against said moveable link to prevent movement of the moveable link until said swing link is pivoted relative to said first attachment means to a position in which engagement of said lug formation no longer occurs.

5. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 4 wherein said swing link has at least one arcuate shelf surface adjacent the lug formation, said arcuate shelf surface being adapted to cause movement of the moveable link when pivoting said swing link relative to said first attachment member to the blocking condition in which access to the notches by said elongate support element is prevented.

6. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 5 wherein said swing link has a pair of arcuate shelf surfaces, one on each side of said lug formation.

7. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 2 wherein said moveable link has an oblong slot for receipt of an axle forming said common axis of rotation for said rotary members, a substantially "V"-shaped slot for receiving a stub axle protruding from said first attachment member, and a pair of legs on its lower portion having an inverted "V"-shaped notch therebetween.

8. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 7 wherein said moveable link is pivotable relative to said first attachment member between a first position in which said inverted "V"-shaped notch is in alignment with said connecting eye, and a second position in which one of said legs obstructs said connecting eye.

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9. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 2 wherein said moveable link has an oblong slot for receipt of an axle forming said common axis of rotation for said rotary members, a substantially "U"-shaped slot for receiving a stub axle protruding from said first attachment member and resilient means for urging said moveable link to its blocking position, and a pair of legs on its lower portion having an inverted semi-circular notch therebetween.

10. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said resilient means is a compression spring.

11. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10 wherein said moveable link is moveable relative to said first attachment member between a first position in which said inverted semi-circular notch is in alignment with said connecting eye, and a second position in which the upper periphery of its inverted semi-circular notch obstructs the connecting eye.

12. A load transfer device as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 11 further comprising a second attachment member overlying the moveable link assembly on the other side thereof from said first attachment member, said second attachment member having a connecting eye in alignment with the connecting eye of said first attachment member.

13. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 12 wherein at least one of said first attachment member and said second attachment member includes a web formation on its periphery to fill the gap between said first attachment member and said second attachment member in order to prevent attachment of a load to the attachment means through only one of the connecting eyes.

14. A load transfer device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the rotary members are in the form of wheels having a plurality of petals projecting radially from their hubs.

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15. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 14 wherein a notch is provided at the root portion of each petal.

9b31 16. A load transfer device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the rotary members are provided with a formation on the respective surfaces thereof facing the slipper member, for co-operation with a complementary formation on the slipper member.

17. A load transfer device as claimed in claim 16 wherein the rotary members are each provided with a surface groove which co-operates with complementary projections on the slipper member.

9b31 18. A load transfer device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein one or more rollers are incorporated in the slipper member to ease passage of the device along the elongate support element in normal use.

19. A load transfer device substantially as described herein with reference to the drawings.

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